

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment cancels Claims 1-13; and adds new Claims 14-25. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. It is believed that no new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 14-25 will be pending in this application.

Claims 14, 24 and 25 are independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

The present invention relates to a polyvinyl alcohol polymer (PVA) film which contains only a small number of defects and is useful as raw material in producing a polarization film. The PVA film of the present invention elutes less PVA in each process (dyeing, fixing treatment, swelling, stretching, etc.) used in producing a polarization film. As a result, a polarization film obtained using this PVA film has a smaller number of defects. Furthermore, unnecessary coloration can be decreased in the PVA film of the present invention by controlling the content of an alkali metal compound to 0.5% by weight or less based on polyvinyl alcohol. Specification at page 1, lines 6-8; page 3, lines 13-17.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over JP 05245858 ("Tanaka"), JP 05337967 ("Mukai") or EP 884352 ("Miyazaki").

Tanaka, Mukai and Miyazaki disclose PVA films.

However, the Office Action admits that the cited prior art fails to measure elution of PVA from the films. Office Action at page 3, section 7, line 8.

The two attached Declarations Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 indicate that for the PVA films produced by Tanaka and Mukai, the amount of PVA eluted under the conditions featured in independent Claims 14 and 24-25 should be far greater than 100 ppm.

Miyazaki discloses water-soluble films from a modified polyvinyl alcohol. As shown in Miyazaki at Table 1, the water-soluble films are soluble in water at 20°C.

Thus, Tanaka, Mukai and Miyazaki each fails to suggest the limitations of independent Claims 14 and 24-25 that "an amount of the polyvinyl alcohol polymer eluted when a 10 cm square of the polyvinyl alcohol polymer film is left in 1 liter of water at 50°C for 4 hours is from 1 to 100 ppm, and a content of an alkali metal compound in the polyvinyl alcohol polymer film is 0.5% by weight or less based on the polyvinyl alcohol polymer". As a result, the prior art rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and § 112, second paragraph. Claims 7-11 are canceled, so the rejections are moot and should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attached:

First Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132
Second Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

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